

Kansas, The Alfalfa State. suggest only appreciation of its fertilizing values. Every year F. D. Coburn, secretary of the State Board of Agriculture has given out a statement showing that they may turn into money through increased yields of other crops, the abundant supply of nitrogen from the air stored in the soil by alfalfa's roots.

It has been only a few years since alfalfa was looked upon as a more or less doubtful experiment in the agriculture of the Sunflower State, and owing to the preconceived notions of many that the crop was one that required irrigation, farmers were backward about giving the plant a trial. To the rank and file its adaptability and usefulness first had to be proven. Skepticism as to its merits however, was early removed by object-lessons in various neighborhoods, and its value was soon demonstrated. Progressive farmers began sowing greater or less areas and at first with varying success. Many who tried it once pronounced it a failure, but on the same farms new fields of excellent alfalfa are flourishing and making their owners rich.

Experience has brought a better understanding of proper methods of preparing the seed-bed, sowing and harvesting and correspondingly more satisfactory results are obtained. Gradually the sowing has been extended—a field here and a field there—explorers of the alfalfa frontier. The interest has grown, and the contagion spread to such extent that all portions of the state are infected, and the areas devoted to this incomparable league are being steadily increased.

Only twice in its onward march has progress been checked; this in 1900 and 1904. The decreases, too, were perhaps due to an enlightened agriculture, wherein the rotation of crops is given larger consideration, with alfalfa as the pivot of the plan. Wide-awake farmers are more extensively making available for other crops the fertility stored in the soil by alfalfa roots, and in the two years mentioned the fields plowed up for such purposes more than offset the new sowings. Being a soil enricher, its areas are always subject to variation; a decreased area at any time does not necessarily mean lack of interest in alfalfa, but on the other hand

That Kansans appreciate this situation is shown by the increased areas devoted to alfalfa as revealed by the statistics annually compiled by the State Board of Agriculture. Alfalfa seems to find in Kansas the condition congenial to its best growth and development. Realizing this, Kansans are taking advantage of their opportunities, and doing more and more their part to supply the world's wants. The State early acquired the lead in alfalfa-growing, and from the latest available statistics it appears that she has nearly twice as much land in this crop as its closest competitor. According to the 1909 returns the State's alfalfa area aggregated close to one million acres, a net gain over the preceding year of 114,380 acres, or 13 per cent.

Olmito
Ayers Reid visited at Chas. Maneth's last Sunday.

C. J. Kreisel returned from Topeka last Friday where he took part in the Band contest with the Hoisington band. Just as we expected, he brought the medal all right.

The dance at Haverty's last Wednesday night was well attended and a general good time was reported.

A severe electrical storm passed over this vicinity last Sunday evening, accompanied by the heaviest rain of the season. Hundreds of dollars worth of damage was done to bridge and buildings due to washouts and lightning. Sig Jacoby's warehouse was struck by lightning and the chimney torn off, also the residence of Joe Michelous was struck and the occupants given a severe shock, outside of that little damage was done to the building.

Dr. Ed Atkin, Jr. of Hoisington was in town Monday on business.

The prairie chicken season has started and our mighty nimrods are out in the fields giving chase.

Susie Hain visited with May Menzer Sunday, and really that visit was a mighty long one, we can judge. Oh well, what's the use, they are like the two Katzen-

jammer kids anyway. Again we are impressed with the great strides for poultry raising has made since our last issue, in five short days. Mr. Carson has increased his flock four-fold, and he intends to keep that up until spring, according to our estimation he will have 5642 spring chickens by April next, which will surely place him in line with the big dealers in fowls of the state. Mr. Carson's success lies in the fact that he does not believe in handling one species of poultry only, but among his flock you will find the famed Silver Wyandottes, Leghorns and Sandwich Island Pullets and he expects every one of them to do their duty. Failure to do so, may prove disastrous to one of their number.

Card of Thanks
We wish to extend our most heartfelt thanks to our neighbors and friends and also the Knights and Ladies of Security who so kindly assisted us during the illness and death of our husband and father, and also for the beautiful floral offering.
Mrs. J. S. Clemmer and Family.

Miss Hazel Marsh left Monday for Wichita where she will attend business college this winter.

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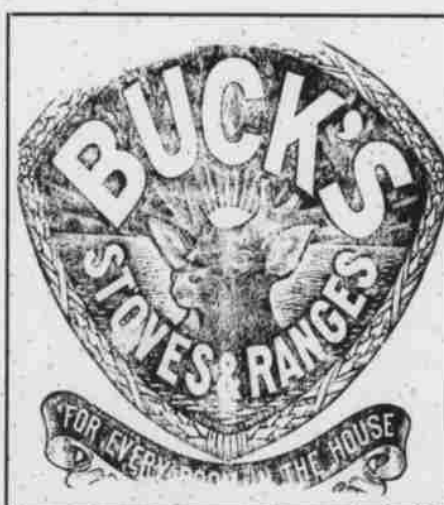
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